



National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

1717 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 601, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

MINUTES

NCLIS MEETING

February 18 - 19, 1977
Miami, Florida

Commission Members Present: Joseph Becker; Daniel Casey; Carlos A. Cuadra; Marian Leith; Louis A. Lerner; Bessie B. Moore; Ralph Renick (afternoon of the 18th and 19th); John E. Velde, Jr.; William Welsh (for Daniel Boorstin); Julia Li Wu; Mildred Younger; and Frederick Burkhardt, Presiding

Commission Members Absent: Martin Goland

Commission Staff Present: Alphonse F. Trezza; Douglas Price; Mary Alice Hedge Reszetar; Carl Thompson; and Ruth Tighe

Observers Present: Virginia Gregg, State Library of Florida; Barbara Cooper, Florida Library Association; Helen Muir, President, Friends of the Miami Dade Public Library

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of November 18-19, 1977, were amended to show that the "opposition" noted in reference to the letter to President Ford (page 10 of those minutes) was not opposition to the purpose of the letter, but rather to its timing. The minutes were approved as amended.

AGENDA

Several Commissioners submitted additions to the agenda, which were duly noted. Other items on the agenda for discussion on February 18 were shifted to February 19 to allow time for the review of documents related to those items. The agenda was then approved.

BUDGET HEARINGS

Dr. Burkhardt, Dr. Moore and Mr. Trezza reported on the testimony they had submitted to the House and Senate on both the fiscal year 1978 NCLIS budget and the fiscal year 1977 supplemental budget request for the White House Conference on Library and Information Services (WHCLIS) at the hearings held on February 8. Copies of the prepared testimony and of questions submitted by Congress, together with the answers provided by the NCLIS staff, were provided to the Commissioners (CD #77-21). Of particular interest is the question concerning the need for centralization of library activity raised by Senator Eagleton.

Mr. Trezza reported that during the hearings he had, for the record, brought two items to the attention of the Committees holding the hearings: First, that legislative action may be necessary to change the 1978 date for the WHCLIS authorized in the law to 1979. This is necessary because appropriations for the Conference have not yet been authorized. The start of the 35-month schedule has, therefore, had to be deferred; second, since the appointments to the WHCLIS Advisory Committee have been announced and since planning must start if the proposed September 1979 date for the National Conference is to be met, NCLIS feels a meeting of the Advisory Committee needs to be called. The reaction of the Appropriation Committees to the idea of expending NCLIS funds for that initial meeting, since funds for the WHCLIS itself have not yet been appropriated, was sought. The reaction was understanding and friendly.

Dr. Moore reported that some budget data was not in sufficient detail to answer questions raised during the hearings, but that it had since been provided. On the whole, she said she felt the hearings had gone well.

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

Mr. Velde, Chairman of the NCLIS White House Conference Committee, reported on the meeting of his Committee held the previous day. There is a sense of urgency on the part of the Committee to hold the first meeting of the Advisory Committee to the White House Conference so that action can be taken promptly once funds for the Conference are appropriated. He observed that this could occur as early as June 1, 1977; in order to hold the WHCLIS by late 1979 (as now planned) work must begin soon. The Committee, therefore, recommends that a meeting of the WHCLIS Advisory Committee be called as soon as possible, and that since appropriations for the WHCLIS have not yet been approved, NCLIS funds be expended for that meeting. The NCLIS is, under the law, assigned responsibility for the WHCLIS, he observed, and therefore can and should underwrite the cost of this first meeting from its own budget. The benefits that would accrue to NCLIS, Mr. Velde asserted, would be well worth the cost.

Mr. Lerner presented to the Commission members some logo designs for the White House Conference, and reported on their evaluation by the WHCLIS Committee. Further discussion by the Commission generated additional ideas, and Mr. Lerner agreed to prepare a revised selection, incorporating those suggestions, for submission to the WHCLIS Advisory Committee.

ACTION

Mr. Velde re-emphasized the importance of ensuring that state conferences include the full library and information science community, and not merely the library community, which ALA seems to be concentrating on in its activity. Input from other library and information organizations must be actively solicited by state library agencies and their conference coordinators. Ms. Tighe informed the Commissioners that ASIS Chapters have already been sent the names of the state library agency heads to contact, and background information on the WHCLIS for their use.

In response to a question from Mr. Lerner, Mr. Trezza replied that no action on staffing for the WHCLIS had yet been taken. Dr. Burkhardt reminded the group that recommendations on policy, program, etc., are the responsibility of the WHCLIS Advisory Committee. The Commission makes the final determination.

Dr. Burkhardt summarized the discussion by noting for the record that the Commission approves calling a meeting of the WHCLIS Advisory Committee; approves requesting, if needed, legislative action to change the Conference date to 1979; and that work on developing a logo should proceed. Action by the Commission at its last meeting authorized calling a meeting of the Advisory Committee using Commission funds, thus no new motion is required. Dr. Burkhardt added, for the record, that the money approved for that meeting will come from the NCLIS budget without expectation of reimbursement.

ACTION

Tentative date of March 20-21 was set for the first meeting of the WHCLIS. The staff agreed to prepare a tentative agenda for the Advisory Committee for this initial meeting. The staff will also prepare a packet of documentation for the Committee.

Mr. Casey commended the staff for its promptness in making known President Ford's announcement of appointment to the WHCLIS Advisory Committee.

STATUS REPORTS

Photocopy Study

Mr. Price called attention to the interim report prepared by the contractor for the photocopy study advisory committee (CD #77-5). Data gathering efforts are well underway and current emphasis of the project is on the design of a royalty payment mechanism. A meeting of this project advisory committee is scheduled for March, at which time they will review the interim report.

Dr. Burkhardt noted the importance of the study; it will be the first time a "decent array of facts" will have been accumulated. He urged the Commissioners to read the interim report closely--now is the time to provide input, if desired.

Mr. Becker expressed concern about possible competitive or overlapping activities in areas such as a clearinghouse by IIA and CONTU. Dr. Burkhardt stated that all parties are fairly well informed, are exchanging information, and their activities are coordinated.

Mr. Price added that the study will also provide valuable base-line data on the extent of library photocopying activity occurring prior to implementation of the copyright law.

State Library Institute

Dr. Moore and Mrs. Leith reported on the first of two sessions which constitute phase I of the Institute. The training is necessary and useful, Dr. Moore observed, but the session was not as successful as it could have been (Mrs. Leith agreed). There was some feeling that the contractor could have planned more effectively. The design of the second session, according to Mr. Trezza, relies heavily on input from the participants as well as the Institute's Advisory Committee.

Project Media Base

Ms. Tighe informed the group of the progress on the project being made by the authors and task force. A working draft has been prepared by the authors and hearings on the validity of its contents held at the annual ASIS Conference and the mid-year ALA meeting. A third hearing will be held at the annual AECT Meeting in April. The task force had its second meeting early in February. Guests from the Department of Defense, the Canadian Film Board, and OCLC attended this meeting and shared with the task force information on their activities and concerns. Ms. Tighe felt all concerned were learning a great deal through the project--and that, indeed, was one of its objectives. One of the more significant findings, to date, is the vast array of activity in media data-base building unearthed by the project; she reported the group will probably have to limit its final report to less than the total universe if it is to come up with viable recommendations within the time frame and budget provided. Representatives from the commercial sector have been in regular attendance at task force meetings, she noted.

NBS Task Force on Computer Protocols

Work toward recommendation of a computer-to-computer protocol for library application is progressing smoothly, Ms. Tighe reported. At its last meeting, the task force established deadlines for completion of the tasks remaining, and fully expects to complete its work within the time frame provided. Announcement of meetings appear in the Federal Register,

reports of the project have received wide coverage in the library press, and interest in activity is high, judging from the requests for information received. (The same indication of high interest is also true of Project Mediabase, she added.) Quite a few representatives of Federal agencies have attended the meetings as observers, she reported, and while the last meeting was rather sparsely attended, due to stormy weather, the meetings have generally been well attended by representatives of the commercial sector as well.

LC Role in National Network

The advisory committee to this project met February 9th to review the draft of the final report submitted by the contractor. The contractor was asked to obtain verification of site visit findings from the site visits. Once this has been done, and the recommendations of the advisory committee incorporated, the report will be submitted to the Commission. According to Ms. Tighe, the report lists no new functions for LC in a national network setting; instead, the report reflects a desire for a greater quantity of the services it already provides and faster delivery. It also stresses the importance of LC's leadership role.

Mr. Becker pointed out that this is consonant with the NCLIS Program Document's recommendations, and asked if it was reasonable to expect that LC would be aggressive in fulfilling its leadership role. Mr. Welsh assured Mr. Becker that it was eminently reasonable. He then reviewed the eight responsibilities assigned to LC by the Program Document and observed that action is being taken in most areas; the establishment of a "technical services center" to provide training is the only significant area not actively being pursued at the moment, and Mr. Welsh acknowledged that it should be given high priority.

Task Force on the Role of School Libraries

Mr. Trezza announced that a list of task force members had been drawn up and invitations to participate in the task force issued. Three superintendents were included, but are heavily involved in school problems and declined to serve. However, invitations will go to an additional list of five superintendents. The acceptance rate of school librarians, library school faculty, etc., has been excellent. Mrs. Wu suggested Ms. Mildred Frary from the Los Angeles School District. Mr. Trezza expressed concern that substitutions or additions might throw off the balance of constituencies designated as needing representation. It was agreed that in certain cases, the merits of a particular individual might justify expanding the size of the task force.

Mr. Becker requested that the charge to the task force include a statement of the responsibility of school librarians to teach the use of information--an area not adequately addressed in the Program Document. Mr. Trezza will be staff liaison to this task force.

GOVERNMENT IN THE SUNSHINE ACT

Though NCLIS proposed rules for observing the "Sunshine Act" were published in the Federal Register, no comments were received except from Mr. Preyer, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, Mr. Trezza reported. There was considerable discussion on interpretation and application of the law and various of its sections. Of major concern was the section dealing with Executive Sessions and the minutes thereof. Dr. Burkhardt reminded the group that the March 12th deadline for conforming to the Act had to be observed; Mr. Lerner urged that the regulation be accepted--after all, he observed, other Federal agencies deal with many issues more sensitive than this one will, and the Commission "should get on with it."

ACTION

Since the desire for clarification persisted, it was finally MOVED by Mildred Younger, seconded by Carlos Cuadra, that clarification of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" be requested regarding: (a) need to name personnel to be discussed at closed meeting; and (b) disposal of transcript of such closed sessions. Passed unanimously.

It was also MOVED by William Welsh, seconded by Louis Lerner, to adopt the NCLIS proposed rules for observing the "Sunshine Act" as they appeared in the Federal Register and as amended by Richardson Preyer, Chairman, Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, Committee on Government Operations of the U.S. House of Representatives, additionally amended by changing "eight Commissioners" to "a majority of Commissioners" throughout, and as corrected for typographical errors. Passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Information

Mr. Lerner, Chairman of the Committee, remarked that the plans for an NCLIS-sponsored media conference were "very much on track." The conference will include both library and general media press; target data for the conference is sometime in May or June. He will meet with Mr. Trezza and the Director of the ALA's Public Relations Office the week of February 20th to continue work on planning the conference.

Mr. Lerner proposed that news releases reporting on Commission meetings be used by each Commissioner for distribution to the local press, along the lines of Mr. Casey's release regarding the November meeting, which resulted in an article about Mr. Casey in his local newspaper. This would provide coverage not only of individual Commissioners, but would also increase coverage of NCLIS activities in local media--i.e., at the "grass roots." It was proposed that a similar approach be provided for members of the WHCLIS Advisory Committee. Mr. Lerner agreed to work with the staff on developing this technique further.

ACTION

The need for a generalized speech in modular form for the use of the Commissioners was again pointed out, as was the desirability of providing in-depth programs on individual NCLIS projects.

National Program Document

Mr. Becker reported on the discussions at the meeting of this Committee. A protracted discussion ensued on the merits of the discussion paper (CD #77-13) vs. the need to identify legislation needed to implement the objectives of the National Program Document. It was finally agreed the staff should work with Mr. Becker on drawing up another matrix which would show the progress NCLIS has made to date, what levels and sources of funding exist, and what courses of action yet need to be taken in relations to the objectives of the Program Document. This would be useful to the WHCLIS Advisory Committee as well as to the Commissioners themselves.

ACTION

During the discussion, Mr. Velde expressed an interest in learning more of what the Federal Library Committee is doing; it was suggested that the Executive Director, Mr. James Riley, be invited to the next meeting of the Commission. Use of the term "network" was also questioned--the term is vague and non-descriptive. Ms. Tighe interjected that a small group will be appointed by Mrs. Henriette Avram of the Library of Congress just for the purpose of defining network related terminology--it has become a problem for all involved in networking activity.

ACTION

Native Americans

Dr. Moore provided some background on the Commission's concern with and activity in the area of library needs of Native Americans. As a result of NCLIS interest, the Bureau of Indian Affairs is finally making real progress on addressing these needs under the able guidance of the Department of Interior's Library and Information Services Librarian, Ms. Mary Huffer. A committee is preparing a long-range plan and has asked that NCLIS endorse its activities. Mr. Trezza will attend the March meeting of that committee; Dr. Moore will attend its April meeting. It was MOVED by Marian Leith, seconded by Daniel Casey, that the National Commission commend the action of the Department of Interior's Library and Information Services which, in conjunction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Indian Education Programs, has created a planning group to develop a long-range plan for the improvement of BIA's library media/information programs, and that the National Commission pledge to continue its interest and support of the development of an effective library and information program that will serve the needs and desires of Native Americans. (News Release/Resolution on Library and Information Services for the American Indians, Attachment I.)

It was suggested that since Native Americans on reservations constitute a separate nation, they be considered on an equal footing with the states and territories in planning their participation in the WHCLIS. The proposal met with general approval of the Commissioners, but is, of course, subject to the approval of the WHCLIS Advisory Committee.

Committee on Recognition of Commissioners

Drafts of resolutions of commendation for Commissioners whose terms have expired have been drafted and some initial exploration of costs done by staff. Mr. Trezza asked how much Commissioners thought would be appropriate to spend on framed certificates--estimates, including the cost of parchment, have run as high as \$150.00 or more. Ms. Tighe asked whether it was felt a letter, and/or a form certificate, or individualized certificates were preferred. There was no agreement on format though there seemed to be general consensus that about \$25.00 to \$50.00 per recognition should be sufficient. Mr. Lerner offered to set in type what the staff had prepared and submit several alternatives to the Commission at its next meeting. The offer was accepted.

ACTION

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee did not meet during the Miami meeting but had taken two actions between the November and February meeting. It agreed to the postponement of the press conference originally scheduled to be held during ALA midwinter to a more propitious time, and it approved the publication by NCLIS of the report of the Domestic Council's Committee on the Right of Privacy.

Private Sector

Mr. Trezza indicated that the task force on the private sector would be asked to examine the National Information Policy report issued by the Committee on the Right of Privacy to weigh its findings and recommend next steps. Members of this task force have not yet been appointed.

ACTION

National Information Policy

Mr. Trezza reviewed the steps which led to the production of the National Information Policy report and its publication by NCLIS. It is a very important document, and NCLIS has undertaken its wide distribution. Copies will also be available from the Government Printing Office.

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Federal Funding

This study is now completed and was submitted for Commission acceptance. Mr. Trezza pointed out the disclaimer printed on the verso of the title page which states that the recommendations are the contractor's and not necessarily those of NCLIS. The Commissioners do not necessarily endorse the findings by voting to accept the report. It was suggested

that if there are specific recommendations for which Commission endorsement is requested or desired, those recommendations should be excerpted from the report and submitted to the Commissioners separately. It was then MOVED by Daniel Casey, seconded by Louis Lerner, that the Commission accept and authorize the publication of the report on the Effectiveness of Federal Funding of Public Libraries. Passed unanimously.

A "companion" report Improving State Aid to Public Libraries prepared for the Urban Libraries Council by the same contractor was submitted to the Commissioners for approval for publication by NCLIS. This engendered some discussion on the need for a policy on publication by NCLIS of documents not of NCLIS origin, and the relative merits (or drawbacks) of such activity. Mr. Trezza pointed out that this study was initially considered for funding by NCLIS, and does relate directly to program objectives and that it is, therefore, most appropriate that NCLIS promote its dissemination. Mr. Welsh said that an analysis of the report he had requested was favorable--the study was a good one. It was MOVED by Marian Leith, seconded by Joseph Becker, that the report prepared for the Urban Libraries Council by the Government Studies and Systems, Inc., entitled Improving State Aid to Public Libraries, be approved for publication. Passed with no objection.

A motion was then submitted to establish as policy that "new information" (i.e., reports, documents, etc.) that is consonant with the NCLIS Program Document but not NCLIS-generated, should be submitted to the Commissioners for consideration as an NCLIS publication. Mr. Cuadra suggested that commercial publishers should be used in such instances; Dr. Burkhardt pointed out that publication by NCLIS enabled information to be disseminated to our own community. Mr. Trezza added that once it is published by NCLIS, it is in the public domain and therefore available for commercial publication--this has been done with other Federal reports, he noted. Mr. Velde suggested the motion be prefaced with a statement to the effect that it is not normally NCLIS policy to publish items not specifically prepared for it. Mr. Trezza agreed to prepare a formal motion to that effect as an agenda item for the May Commission meeting.

ACTION

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

ACTION

Mr. Renick requested that a separate list of NCLIS publications be prepared.

Dr. Moore expressed her appreciation for the staff output in a variety of fields.

Mr. Welsh stressed the importance of the role that the NCLIS staff performs as "clearinghouse" between the Commission and the world.

Mr. Velde cautioned the group about IRS regulations on combining business trips with vacations.

Dr. Burkhardt reminded Mr. Trezza that he had not received a copy of the latest staff travel schedule.

Mr. Casey mentioned some professional openings in New York State. He inquired whether NCLIS couldn't underwrite the cost of CLENE membership for Commissioners; Mr. Trezza responded that under Federal regulations this is not possible.

Mrs. Wu urged that commendations for "retired" Commissioners not be delayed.

Mrs. Younger inquired about the possibility of obtaining cards that would identify the Commissioners as Commissioners. Mr. Trezza said the staff could obtain information on their cost, but that the expenditure would have to be borne by the Commissioners themselves. He agreed to provide the cost information to the Commissioners and send out a form, together with a sample card, on which Commissioners could indicate what they wanted printed on their cards. He also agreed to obtain information on the cost of the logo pins. Contributions to the production of more pins would be voluntary.

ACTION

STATUS REPORTS (Continued)

National Inventory

This project is now complete and was submitted for Commission acceptance. Mr. Lerner questioned the "softness" of its recommendations for next steps, and Mr. Trezza responded that the purpose of the project was not to make recommendations, but to collect data. He also reassured the Commissioners that the contractor of this study and of the study on the Effectiveness of Federal Funding of Public Libraries had shared data; the figures in the two reports substantiate each. Mr. Lerner asked whether the findings that there is a \$6 billion "gap" in adequate service wouldn't generate considerable concern; the answer was: It should! Clarification of some statistical data was requested and supplied by Mr. Trezza. It was then MOVED by Louis Lerner, seconded by John E. Velde, Jr., that the Commission accept and authorize the publication of the National Inventory of Library Needs, 1975. Passed unanimously.

National Periodical System

This report from the task force is also complete and was submitted for Commission acceptance. In the ensuing lengthy discussion, several significant issues arose as follows: how to deal with the concern of the Center for Research Libraries re: the location, management and operation of the proposed Periodical Access Center; how funds would be

raised to fund the Center, and by whom; how to correct what appears to some to be insufficient attention to the publishers' concerns; and resuscitation of the policy of having the person primarily responsible for the project available for questioning when reports are submitted to the Commissioners for their approval. Mr. Trezza indicated that Mr. Palmour served as staff and that the task force was primarily responsible for the content of the report.

The mailgram sent to Mr. Trezza by the CRL Board Chairman (CD #77-20) received extended analysis. Mr. Trezza maintained that CRL's appropriateness as the site of the Periodicals Access Center had received adequate review; Dr. Burkhardt pointed out that if this was the case, it was not adequately reflected in the report. In particular, he felt that the use of the word "decided" as opposed to "recommended" in assigning responsibility to LC for both operating and managing the Center was indiscrete. Since this is a report submitted to the Commission, it should, he emphasized, be viewed as a recommendation; the task force isn't empowered to make decisions. It was also pointed out in the process of the debate that CRL is having financial difficulties of its own, and that its unhappiness with the manner of implementation of the Center is not motivated solely by a concern for effective service. Moreover, Mr. Trezza pointed out, CRL interests have been well represented on the task force. Nonetheless, it was finally accepted as a sense of the meeting that a small committee should be appointed to visit CRL to examine its capabilities as part of the Periodical Access System. Dr. Burkhardt thereupon appointed Mr. Lerner Chairman of the Committee, designated as members Mr. Welsh, Mr. Trezza and Gene Palmour, and agreed to ask Mr. Haas, CLR Vice-Chairman and Mr. Croxton (LC) to serve on the committee as well. In addition, Dr. Burkhardt agreed to respond to the mailgram and to inform CRL of the intention to reassess CRL's appropriateness as the Center site.

A large financial outlay will be required to develop the Access Center, and outside funding should be sought, submitted Mr. Welsh, since LC will not be able to absorb such amounts for several years. There are two reasons for this, he explained: As the Madison Library approaches completion, LC will be expending considerable monies to staff the new facility, and money for external space will need to be acquired, since LC does not have any. There is receptivity on the part of several major foundations to a request for funds of this nature, Mr. Welsh reported; both Dr. Burkhardt and Mr. Trezza agreed this seemed to be the case. Mr. Welsh proposed that NCLIS assume responsibility for the fund raising. Dr. Burkhardt protested that NCLIS had no experience in fund raising of this magnitude; the risk that, if NCLIS is successful, Congress might come to believe NCLIS should obtain funds for its operation from foundations as well, should not be overlooked, added Mr. Casey. Mr. Becker countered by saying the periodical access project is a worthy one, and trying to raise funds for it would serve as a good test of the appropriateness and capability of NCLIS to raise funds for such purposes. Mr. Velde and Mr. Lerner agreed that while it might be risky, it does offer an opportunity for NCLIS to broaden its range of activity, and that NCLIS should, therefore, undertake to raise the necessary funds.

Mr. Becker raised a question concerning the consideration given in the report to the impact the Access Center would have on publishers--he felt it was not adequate. Staff and Commissioners alike had some difficulty identifying the best source from which to obtain input representative of general periodical publishers. While Jim Wood of Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) and Eugene Garfield of Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) served on the task force, neither CAS nor ISI was felt to be truly representative of publisher concerns, nor was the Association of American Publishers (AAP) felt to be the appropriate body. Mr. Trezza agreed to consult with Mr. Cuadra for the purpose of trying to identify an adequate source for relevant input. In response to the question as to why the task force, rather than Mr. Palmour, was cited as author of the report, Mr. Trezza stated that Mr. Palmour was serving as an NCLIS staff member on this project, not as a contractor or principal investigator.

ACTION

Dr. Moore pointed out that it had been long-standing Commission policy to have the "principal investigator" present when the report acceptance was at issue, and that this practice should be adhered to. Mr. Trezza said he didn't ask Mr. Rodney Lane and Mr. Boyd Ladd to attend as their reports did not seem to require detailed explanation.

Mr. Welsh proposed that action on the periodical access report be deferred until the May Commission meeting, but that it be disseminated to the community as an information document in the interim. It was then agreed that the report would be distributed as soon as corrections and/or comments from the task force and those brought up in this meeting were made; that the CRL plaint would be investigated; that staff would seek publisher and public response to the report, and that Mr. Palmour would attend the May meeting in a staff capacity. The report will be on the agenda for Commission discussion and action.

ACTION

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Trezza briefed the Commission on a meeting he had attended with Dr. Lee Burchinal of the National Science Foundation, and Larry Livingston of the Council on Library Resources regarding future operation and funding of Z-39 (the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Committee on Library Work, Documentation and Related Publishing Practices). The present director of Z-39 is retiring, and a new site is also needed. Mr. Trezza had suggested the possibility that the responsibility for Z-39 be assumed by NCLIS, but further discussion is needed. It was MOVED by Joseph Becker, seconded by William Welsh, that NCLIS participate with the National Science Foundation and the Council on Library Resources to determine the logical place for Z-39 and that NCLIS funds may be expended to undertake the necessary study. Mr. Trezza indicated that an NCLIS task force would be established to investigate the problem and to make recommendations.

ACTION

Mr. Trezza informed the Commissioners that NCLIS is discussing with Mr. Maurice Freedman of the New York Public Library the possibility of a study on the bibliographic needs of public libraries. The initial estimate of cost was \$30,000, but conditions and scope of the study are still being defined. Dr. Burkhardt asked how much remains in the budget for such studies, and Mr. Trezza replied that there was between \$75,000 - \$100,000. Dr. Burkhardt felt that, in that framework, the cost of the proposed study was too high. Mr. Trezza said that was one of the areas being refined; if work on definition of the study was completed before May, could the Executive Committee be asked to approve its initiation? Mr. Becker felt all new projects should be reviewed by the Program Committee before being submitted to the Executive Committee. Mr. Cuadra requested that all Commissioners be sent copies of proposed projects with sufficient lead time so that if the decision is made by the Executive Committee, Commissioners can submit their comments to the Executive Committee before it takes action.

Ms. Tighe reviewed the documentation provided to the Commissioners on the AT&T Bill before the House. She reported that the House Subcommittee responsible for reviewing the bill had decided to postpone action in favor of reviewing the underlying Communications Act of 1934. Despite the shift in approach, Ms. Tighe explained that the House Subcommittee would still benefit from testimony by NCLIS as representative of the library and information service needs and interests of the people, and she urged approval of a motion authorizing funding of preparation of such testimony. Mr. Casey objected to the bias of the documentation submitted; he requested that the Commissioners be provided more objective data. It was felt "preparations of testimony" was premature, since the Commission had not agreed on a position. Ms. Tighe submitted an amendment changing the nature of the task to be performed, and the motion was MOVED by Bessie Moore, seconded by Carlos Cuadra, that funds be authorized to prepare information on which the Commission can develop its position in relation to either hearings on the AT&T Bill or the review of the Communications Act of 1934, as determined by Congress.

Discussion of the international task force was requested to be placed on the May agenda.

The status of the Bystrom paper on the "Locus of Federal Responsibility" was discussed; Mr. Cuadra will be in Hawaii in April and could call on Mr. Bystrom while there.

Mr. Trezza asked the Commissioners to identify sectors needing representation on the Commission. Two seats are empty now, and three more (Messrs. Goland's, Renick's and Lerner's) will become vacant July 1, 1977.

Mr. Lerner submitted a motion protesting the convictions of the publisher of Hustler Magazine; the case, he argued, sets a dangerous precedent in the interpretation of the obscenity laws. Mr. Velde felt it was not appropriate that NCLIS take a stand on a particular case, but said he would have no objection if a resolution reasserting First Amendment rights were to be offered. Staff will draft such a resolution for consideration at the May meeting.

ACTION

Dr. Burkhardt wished the Commissioners well over the summer (he will be in England). Dr. Moore appointed Carlos Cuadra to serve as a member of the Executive Committee in Dr. Burkhardt's absence.

The schedule for the next meeting was briefly discussed. If possible, the Commission meeting will be held May 12 and 13, with a visit to Bell Laboratories on May 11 and Committee meetings on May 10.

ACTION

Mr. Trezza will work on trying to schedule the tour along those lines.

FORMAL VOTES AND ACTIONS

Attachment II is a complete list of formal votes and actions taken at the February 17-18, 1977, Commission meeting.

Attachments

NEWS RELEASE

From : National Commission on Libraries
and Information Science
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

7 March 1977

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES
FOR THE
AMERICAN INDIANS

The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science, at its meeting held in Miami, Florida, on February 17-18, 1977, adopted a resolution commending to the Secretary of Interior the action of the Department of Interior's Library and Information Services which, in conjunction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Library Education Programs, created a planning group to develop a long-range plan for the improvement of information services to the American Indians on reservations.

The Commission pledges its continued interest and support in the development of an effective program that will serve the needs and desires of Native Americans. This program represents one more effort toward implementing the Commission's National Program Document, "Toward a National Program for Library and Information Services: Goals for Action," adopted by the Commission in May of 1975. In that document, the importance of library and information services to Native Americans was stressed, and one of the Commission's objectives urged improved and expanded services to special constituencies such as the American Indian.

Attachment

RESOLUTION

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES
FOR THE
AMERICAN INDIANS

WHEREAS, The National Commission on Libraries and Information Science has for some time been aware of and concerned over the lack of adequate library and information services for Native Americans on reservations, and

WHEREAS, The National Commission has recommended, after analyzing written and oral testimony to the Commission on the adequacies of library programs serving American Indian people, that a plan of action for the improvement of library services in Indian communities be adopted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the National Commission commends to the Secretary of the Interior the action of the Department of Interior's Library and Information Services which, in conjunction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Indian Education Programs, has created a planning group to develop a long-range plan for the improvement of BIA's library media/information programs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the National Commission pledges to continue its interest and support of the development of an effective library and information program that will serve the needs and desires of Native Americans.

Adopted by the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science at its February 17-18, 1977, meeting in Miami, Florida.

7 March 1977



National Commission on Libraries and Information Science

1717 K STREET, N.W. SUITE 601, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

FORMAL VOTES AND ACTIONS

Commission Meeting

February 17 and 18, 1977
Miami, Florida

- (1) Minutes approved after being amended to show concern in letter to President Ford (page 10 of the minutes) was with timing of the letter, not the substance.
- (2) Confirmed, for the record, that (a) the meeting of the White House Conference on Library and Information Services Advisory Committee be held as soon in March as appropriate clearance can be obtained from Congressional personnel; (b) that \$10,000 be taken from the NCLIS budget to cover travel, housing and meal expenses of the Advisory Committee members, and (c) that this be on a nonreimbursable basis.
- (3) MOVED by Mildred Younger, seconded by Carlos Cuadra, that clarification of the "Government in the Sunshine Act" be requested regarding: (a) need to name personnel to be discussed at closed meeting; and (b) disposal of transcript of such closed sessions. Passed unanimously.
- (4) MOVED by William Welsh, seconded by Louis Lerner, to adopt NCLIS proposed rules for observing the "Sunshine Act" as they appeared in the Federal Register and as amended by Richardson Preyer, Chairman, Subcommittee on Government Information and Individual Rights, Committee on Government Operations of the House of Representatives, as additionally amended by changing "eight Commissioners" to "a majority of Commissioners" throughout, and as corrected for typographical errors. Passed unanimously.
- (5) MOVED by Marian Leith, seconded by Daniel Casey, that the National Commission commend the action of the Department of Interior's Library and Information Services which, in conjunction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Indian Education Programs, has created a planning group to develop a long-range plan for the improvement of BIA's library media/information programs, and that the National Commission pledge to continue its interest and support of the development of an effective library and information program that will serve the needs and desires of Native Americans.

- (6) MOVED by Daniel Casey, seconded by Louis Lerner, that the Commission accept and authorize the publication of the report on the Effectiveness of Federal Funding of Public Libraries. Passed unanimously.
- (7) MOVED by Marian Leith, seconded by Joseph Becker, that the report prepared for the Urban Libraries Council by the Government Studies and Systems, Inc., entitled Improving State Aid to Public Libraries, be approved for publication. Passed with no objection.
- (8) MOVED by Louis Lerner, seconded by John E. Velde, Jr., that the Commission accept and authorize the publication of the National Inventory of Library Needs, 1975. Passed unanimously.
- (9) Established, as a sense of the meeting, that Dr. Burkhardt would appoint a small committee consisting of Messrs. Lerner as Chairman, Welsh, Fred Croxton (Library of Congress), James Haas (Columbia University Libraries), Eugene Palmour, and Mr. Trezza to study and visit the Center for Research Libraries in response to the mailgram received.
- (10) MOVED by Joseph Becker, seconded by William Welsh, that NCLIS participate with the National Science Foundation and the Council on Library Resources to determine the logical place for Z-39 and that NCLIS funds may be expended to undertake the necessary study.
- (11) MOVED by Bessie Moore, seconded by Carlos Cuadra, that funds be authorized to prepare information on which the Commission can develop its position in relation to either hearings on the AT&T Bill or the review of the Communications Act of 1934, as determined by Congress.